

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01
IO-13 /085 W
-----041325Z 021447 /43

R 041208Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1164
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USUN NEW YORK 1247
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMCONSUL TANGIER

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS AG AF
SUBJECT: KING'S THRONE DAY SPEECH BREAKS NO NEW GROUND

1. KING HASSAN DELIVERED 35 MINUTE THRONE DAY SPEECH FROM
MARRAKECH ON MARCH 3. FIRM AND STATESMANLIKE IN TONE, IT WAS
DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO SAHARA DEVELOPMENT, MOROCCAN SUSPENSION OF
OAU ACTIVITY, AND INTERNAL DEMOCRATIZATION. NO NEW SUBSTANCE
WAS BREACHED, NOR WERE DETAILS AND TIMING OF PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTIONS REVEALED.

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2. SAHARA. KING OUTLINED PROGRESS MADE DURING PAST YEAR TO ORGANIZE
THE TERRITORY AND DEVELOP ITS INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENUMERATED CURRENT
AND FUTURE PROJECTS, PRAISING MOROCCANS FOR RESPONSE TO LAST YEAR'S
\$250 MILLION SAHARA LOAN. KING MENTIONED INTER ALIA PLANS TO
CONSTRUCT RAILWAY FROM MARRAKECH TO EL-AYOUN AND TO DEVELOP RICH
IRON ORE FINDS WHICH HE TERMED SECOND IN IMPORTANCE ONLY TO

SAHARA'S PHOSPHATES. HE ALSO NOTED DISCOVERY OF OIL SHALE EXTENDING FROM TARFAYA TO EL-AYOUN AND BOUJDOUR. KING EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD FOCUSED ON SAHARA IN SPEECH BECAUSE HE WISHED TO MAKE EXPLICIT HIS "CONCEPT OF OVERALL SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ENTIRE EXTENT OF THE COUNTRY."

3. MOROCCAN OAU SUSPENSION (RABAT 1050). KING AVOIDED CITING NAMES IN EXPRESSING "PROFOUND DISAPPOINTMENT AND REGRET" THAT SOME STATES OF THE CONTINENT HAD CONSCIOUSLY LEFT THE PATH OF REASON AND GOOD SENSE TO ATTEMPT AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR MOROCCO. KING STRESSED FIRMNESS AS MOROCCO'S BEST RESPONSE, CASTIGATING THE "SMALL GROUP" WHICH AT LOME OAU MINISTERIAL MEETING HAD COMMITTED A "VERITABLE AGGRESSION" OF FALSE ACCUSATIONS, CAUSING MOROCCO TO SUSPEND OAU PARTICIPATION "UNTIL IT IS CLEAR THAT THE ORGANIZATION ITSELF AND THOSE OF ITS MEMBERS WHICH ARE DOING IT CONSCIOUS HARM RETURN TO BEHAVIOR MARKED BY CORRECTNESS AND REASON." KING ALSO VOICED ASTONISHMENT THAT OAU MAJORITY HAD TAKEN A PASSIVE ATTITUDE, BUT HE PROMISED TO WORK TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH REASONABLE AFRICAN STATES.

4. ELECTIONS. KING REITERATED "FIRM DETERMINATION" TO PROCEED WITH ELECTORAL PROCESS AIMING AT INSTALLATION OF PARLIAMENT. HE DESCRIBED HIS OBJECTIVE AS BUILDING A NEW MOROCCO "FOR GENERATIONS AND CENTURIES," ASSURING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED NEED FOR SINCERITY AND INTEGRITY ON PART OF ELECTED OFFICIALS, STRONGLY RECOMMENDING VIGILANCE IN AVOIDING ERRORS. "WE FEAR FOR OUR DEMOCRACY..." ONE BRANCH MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO ABUSE THE PREROGATIVES OF ANOTHER, KING WARNED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OBLIQUELY, CALLING ON COUNTRY TO AVOID FALLING INTO THE HANDS OF A "TYRANNICAL MINORITY IMPOSING ITS OPINIONS BY FORCE AND ARBITRARINESS."

5. KING ALSO MENTIONED IN PASSING A 10 PERCENT GROWTH IN ECONOMIC OUTPUT IN 1976, CONCLUDING WITH A "VIBRANT HOMMAGE" TO THE ARMED FORCES FOR THEIR SERVICES TO THE NATION.

6. COMMENT: SAHARAN REMARKS CONCENTRATED ON DEVELOPMENT AS THE KING'S PRIMARY CONCERN, AND THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO ALGERIA OR POLISARIO. KING'S INDIGNANT INDIRECT REFUTATION OF ACCUSATIONS WITHIN OAU OF MOROCCAN INVOLVEMENT IN BENIN SIGNALS NO EARLY END TO MOROCCO'S OAU SUSPENSION. KING DID NOT ANNOUNCE TIMING OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED FOR APRIL 1 BUT NOW CONSIDERED LIKELY TO BE DELAYED. FINALLY KING OBLIQUELY BUT FIRMLY WARNED THE OPPOSITION THAT ONE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT, I.E. PARLIAMENT, SHOULD NOT INFRINGE ON ANOTHER (SEPTEL FOLLOWS ON CURRENT

STATUS OF ELECTORAL PROCESS).

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977RABAT01160
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770075-0400
Format: TEL
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770392/aaaaddcl.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 80b6adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3206318
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KING'S THRONE DAY SPEECH BREAKS NO NEW GROUND
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SS, AG, AF, (HASSAN II)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/80b6adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009